

April 22, 2021

### SHORT PRAYER, BIG IMPACT

There was an article in Christianity Today that dated back to April 6, 1979. In the article, it spoke of eleven leaders of different Christian denominations who had gathered together to talk about some common concerns they had. They were a collection of leaders representing six different Protestant denominations. The concern that they were having? The rapid increase and growth among evangelical denominations. I found this article somewhat amusing, as if I was reading a soap opera. They were discussing the struggles that Protestant faith was having over new evangelical movements with televangelists popping up all over and people quickly leaving the "uptight" Protestant faiths and looking more towards this "new-age" way of teaching. I had almost given up on the article, thinking that I had basically wasted time on reading old gossip until I saw what the group found as their real problem. One of the concerns that they had blamed for the fall in their membership and growth in others... prayerlessness. They cited a study that showed "the average minister surveyed prays only three minutes each day."

I found this to be shocking that most ministers and church leaders were praying so little. What I found more shocking was when I realized that survey was over 42 years old. Imagine how much has changed since then, and I can imagine that this number has not gotten much better. As I read this and reflected on my own prayer life, I soon started noticing many areas of my prayer life that could use work and I encourage you to take a moment and do the same. If you were to add up how much you have prayed today how would you rate yourself? **1 Thessalonians 5:17** tells us to, "pray without ceasing", but how are we supposed to ever live up to such a task? It was through this thought, that I began to realize that maybe the men in this article were looking at prayer in the wrong way.

It is easy for us, as Christians, to sometimes make the excuse that we don't know how to pray. Most of the time, when we make this excuse though, it isn't that we don't know how to pray, it is more that we don't know how to pray the long, eloquent prayers that we sometimes hear in public worship. When Jesus was teaching about prayer, He said in **Matthew 6:7**, "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words." Now, this does not mean that long prayers are in any way wrong, unless they are filled with empty words or the one praying thinks the length of prayer is a measure of its power. Jesus goes on to say in verse 8 that, "your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." We should pray without ceasing, but does that mean our lives, from sun up to sun down should be one long repeating prayer? Before we come to any conclusion, consider the power and examples we have in scripture about short prayers.

For example, when the apostles were with Jesus, he fed about 5000 men with only five loaves of bread and two fish. After they gathered up the leftovers, Jesus sent the apostles out on a boat while He dismissed the crowd. That night during the fourth watch, between 3 and 6 A.M., the winds picked up and the waves began bashing their boat. As this was happening, the apostles saw off in the distance Jesus walking to them on top of the water. Peter said to Jesus in **Matthew 14:28**, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." Jesus responded, "Come." In an amazing act of faith, Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on water towards Jesus. However, when he saw the wind and waves, Peter began to fear and sink. In **Matthew 14:30**, Peter cried out, "Lord, save me." It is the shortest prayer in the Bible, but it was all that was needed for Peter to be lifted out.

Jesus also taught in a parable, in **Luke 18:9-14**, about two men who entered the temple to pray. The first man prayed by himself and about himself, telling God what a good man he had been and how righteous that he was. The second man would not even look up to heaven because of his humility, and instead of boasting he beat his chest and prayed, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" (**Luke 18:13**) Jesus then said in **Luke 18:14**, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." There was a lot of power in that short prayer.

In **John 11**, Jesus comes to the town of Bethany, where His friend Lazarus has recently passed away. As Jesus speaks to Lazarus' sister Martha, He tells her that her brother will rise again. When they went to the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus had the stone removed. In **John 11:41-42**, Jesus said this prayer, "Father, I thank you that you have heard Me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent Me." After this prayer, Jesus cried out, "Lazarus, come out." And Lazarus did so. Do you think that small prayer was answered? Do you think that those who witnessed this moment believed? Certainly!

We should live our lives praying without ceasing, and I certainly hope that we are praying more than three minutes a day. However, let us not get hung up on thinking that we simply need a set time to pray. Prayer isn't just for meals and bed times, it's for all times. If you want to enhance your relationship with God, think of these short prayers, or the many others we find in scripture, and pray them throughout your life. Remember that short prayers have great power when they are heartfelt. **Philippians 4:6-7**, "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Andrew Spivey

## COORDINATED BIBLE CLASS STUDIES

Sunday Read – Exodus 17

Wednesday Read – Exodus 18

### BIBLE STUDY

- Questions for last week's reading of Exodus 15 & 16.
1. What did the Israelites do to thank God after they crossed the Red Sea?
  2. What did the Israelites do when they found only bitter water at Marah?
  3. What caused the water to be sweet?
  4. How did God feed the Israelites in the desert for 40 years?
  5. How did God provide meat for the Israelites?

### NEW MASK POLICY

Since Sumner County has lifted the mask mandate, the elders have made the decision to not require masks at this time. You may still continue to wear one if you feel more comfortable doing so, but masks will not be required to enter the building or when moving about. **Please remember to be respectful of others, maintain social distancing, avoid congregating in the foyer and refrain from handshakes or hugs as much as possible.**

### SYMPATHY

Our Love and Sympathy to **Lois Butler** on the passing of her brother, Danny Sisco, on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Funeral services were held Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> in Gallatin.

### THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you for the love you had for our Dad. Your thoughtful and beautiful wreath we received will always be special. Dad didn't want any service, just a graveside with his and Grace's ashes buried in the family site in Waverly. Thank you again, God Bless.

**The Family of Buck Buchanan**

Bill is doing better. Still ask for prayers. He still is sick and confused at times. The pacemaker will be put in at a later date. He got the covid vaccine and it made him sick. He will get his 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccine on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you so much for praying for him.

Love you all.

**Bill & Jan Johnson**

## ORDER OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

April 25, 2021

9:00 AM

BIBLE STUDY

(Classes for Nursery – High School upstairs)

Song.....Jerry Watson  
 Opening Prayer.....Carl Newby  
 Auditorium Lesson.....Philip Norwood

### 10:00 AM SERVICE

Welcome.....Jim Cherry  
 Song Leader.....Jerry Watson  
 Opening Prayer.....Tim Cummins  
 Sermon.....Philip Norwood  
 Lord's Supper.....Eric Stephenson  
 Closing Prayer.....Lee Boone  
 Ushers.....R. Buck/B. Sever

### 5:00 PM SERVICE

Welcome.....Jim Cherry  
 Song Leader.....Jerry Watson  
 Opening Prayer.....Adam Williamson  
 Sermon.....Andrew Spivey  
 Lord's Supper.....Ken Veale  
 Closing Prayer.....Jim Huffman

## WEDNESDAY

April 28, 2021

7:00 PM

No children's classes

Welcome.....Jim Cherry  
 Song Leader.....Jerry Watson  
 Opening Prayer.....Jonathan Senn  
 Lesson.....Andrew Spivey  
 Closing Prayer.....Tim Strickland  
 Visitor's Desk Volunteer.....Linda Cherry

### IF YOU CANNOT SERVE, PLEASE CALL

Alex Sherrill.....615-289-9935  
 Church Office.....615-452-3431

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 1883 Nashville Pike  
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 E-mail: [nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net](mailto:nashvilleroadcoc@comcast.net)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m. - Wednesday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

### SICK LIST

Faye Hart had back surgery on Monday April 19. Surgery went well. Jan Fulford, her condition has slightly improved. Bill Johnson will have pacemaker surgery at a later date. Mae Oldham is home and doing well. Ty Tyler, son of Ann Tyler is home doing some better. Ron Kloes step son of Sue Kloes has been diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. Allen Plunk, cousin of Donna Jennings, colon cancer that has spread to his liver. Ricky Cantrell has been diagnosed with melanoma. Ronnie Love, cousin of Pam Newby, has been diagnosed with cancer. Donny Pedigo, friend of Tim Cummins has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Jerry Ladd, Sr. has been diagnosed with CLL Leukemia. Craig Sweeney, son of James & Doris Sweeney, has been accepted into a new drug trial clinic. John Arnold, father of Brenda Veale is homebound and dealing with serious health issues.



### PRAYER LIST

Maxine Cothron; Gerald Miles, The Waters of Gallatin, 555 E. Bledsoe Drive, Room 213; Jim Sweeney; Jan Fulford; J.H & Frances Catron; Melba Hill; William Dunn; Jean Deaton; Ron & Anna Radish; Ricky Cross, friend of Betty Buttrey; Ida Lou Sherrill, mother of Alex Sherrill; Will Flowers, brother-in-law of Grace Bracey; Lawrence Redding, son-in-law of Betty Melcher; Taylor Lackford, niece of Brenda Veale; Dustin Lackford, nephew of Brenda Veale; Janice Haskins, sister of Jim Cherry; Larry Conley, friend of Wanda Proctor; Wayne Holt, nephew of Grace Bracey; John Gregory, brother of Bob Gregory; Pam Flory, friend of Sherry Sever; Harold Cole, friend of Lena Baggett; Bobbie Carter, sister of Janice Johnson; Betty Billingsley, sister of Wanda Proctor; Walter Wooten, brother of Wanda Sherrill.

### SHUT-INS

Ilene Kinney; Jane Hughes, 126 Seabury Dr., Greenville, SC 29615; Cathy Henderson; Penny Campbell, The Village of Bellevue, Room 417, 8118 B Sawyer Brown Road, Nashville, TN 37221; Dorothy Sullivan, Front Porch Senior Living 115 Sunset Pl. Portland TN, 37148.

We depend on families and friends to help us update this list.  
 Please notify us of any changes

### OUR RECORD THIS WEEK

Bible Study.....	94
Morning Worship.....	122
Sunday Evening.....	74
Wednesday Evening.....	53
Contributions.....	\$6,700.00
Youth Group Account.....	\$6,326.85

### Elders

Tony Butler.....	615-452-0560
Jim Cherry.....	615-479-2149
David Johnson.....	615-300-9084
Alex Sherrill.....	615-289-9935
David Thompson.....	615-598-6621
Jerry Watson.....	615-461-8137

### Deacons

Carl Newby Brent Smith  
 Ken Veale Adam Williamson



# Nashville Road CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ANDREW SPIVEY, Pulpit and Family Minister  
 TIM STRICKLAND, Associate Minister